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Next year's meeting will be held at Florence.

## THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

### "SEARCH AND SEIZURE."

All prohibition enforcement draws its authority from the Eighteenth Amendment; the hitch in Congress, at the time of this writing, August 20th, on the prohibition measures is the result of discussion of a much earlier Amendment, the Fourth, which says:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Both of the amendments, that by Stanley in the Senate and Volstead in the House, throw the specific protection of the law around the individual's dwelling place. The saloon was the objective of the prohibition attack in the popular mind, and its partial obliteration is the element of strength which the prohibition law possesses to-day.

### ILLINOIS MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT OF 1917 DECLARED VOID.

Directly, pharmacists are not interested in the decision which makes invalid the Illinois Medical Practice Act of 1917, but it clearly points out the care necessary in the construction of legislation so that there will be no discrimination which will render the law invalid.

Section 5 of the law, which caused the trouble provides as follows: The applicant for a license to practice medicine and surgery must be a graduate of a medical school deemed to be reputable and in good standing at the time of graduation. The applicant for a license to practice any system or method of treating human ailments without the use of drugs or medicine and without operative surgery must be a graduate of a professional school requiring a four years' course of instruction for graduation.

The Court holds that Section 5 of the Statute in question is void because it "unlawfully and unjustly discriminates against one class of

physicians, or those desiring to become physicians, by requiring that before they can practice treating human ailments without the use of drugs, medicine, or operative surgery, they must be graduates of a professional school, college or institution teaching that system which requires as a prerequisite for graduation a 'four years' course of instruction,' while for one who desires to practice medicine and surgery in all their branches the only professional education required is that prior to July 1, 1922, he be 'a graduate of a medical college deemed to be reputable and in good standing at the time of his graduation, and has completed a course of study in such college' in accordance with the law and the rules of the state board of health established and in force at the time of his graduation. . . . We are not prepared to hold that requiring four years' professional education before a chiropractor or osteopath is allowed to practice his profession is unreasonable or unjust. Such a question is a question for the legislature, and the legislature is presumed to have investigated the question for itself in ascertaining what is best for the good of the profession and for the people among whom such profession is practiced; but the legislature cannot discriminate against chiropractors or osteopaths as to the time of professional education required, where no reason can be perceived for such discrimination. The act itself discloses clearly that there is an unjust discrimination against chiropractors and osteopaths. . . . Surely there is no reason for providing that the limited professional education of one class of physicians shall be greater or for a longer time than that for those practicing medicine and surgery in all their branches."

The *Journal A. M. A.* comments:—"This decision, which nullifies the Illinois Medical Practice Act of 1917, clearly demonstrates two facts: First, that the only interest of the state or of the courts in the regulation of the practice of medicine arises from their interest in it as a business. It is not the function of the legislature or the court to decide scientific questions.

The relative merits of different systems of treatment cannot be determined by legislative vote or court decision. The sole interest of the state in such laws lies in its interest in the regulation of the practice of medicine as a business; consequently, all discussions of medical practice acts or state examining boards as a means for elevating the standard of the practice of medicine are beside the point. Second, in any laws regulating or licensing those who treat the sick, the qualifications and conditions for license must be the same, or at least must not be greater for those asking for a limited license

than it is for those asking for an unlimited license. In the majority of cases it is far better to provide that the state board or department of registration shall establish such regulations and qualifications as it may deem advisable, instead of specifying these qualifications in the law. If the regulations are unfair they can be criticized and condemned by the court without jeopardizing the entire practice act. The court also held that the regulations of the state board requiring chiropractors to submit letters of endorsement from two physicians or osteopaths was unjust and unreasonable."

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Organic Medicinal Chemicals (Synthetic and Natural)*. By M. Barrowcliff, M. B. C. F. I. C., and Francis H. Carr, C. B. E., F. I. C. Published by Van Nostrand Co., New York, N. Y., 1920. Pp. XIII + 331. Price, \$4.00.

Upon reading the "general preface" of the book written by Dr. Samuel Rideal, one learns that it is one of a series of handbooks being written, more for reference use than as texts, both for chemists, advanced students, and teachers as well as for men of affairs having no special chemico-technical knowledge. It is also to serve as a guide to the standard literature of the particular subject by directing the seeker to the proper source of information with the aid of the bibliographical references given.

The book is divided into sections instead of chapters. Section I. Narcotics and General Anaesthetics. II. Naturally Occurring Alkaloids and Their Derivatives. III. Natural and Synthetic Local Anaesthetics. IV. Antipyretics and Analgesics. V. Organic Antiseptics and Disinfectants. VI. Purgatives. VII. Vaso-Constrictors and Vaso-Dilators. VIII. Diuretics and Uric Acid Solvents. IX. Organo-Metallic Compounds. X. The Digitalis Group, Skin Irritants, Glucosides and Neutral Principles. XI. Other Substances of Interest.

Twenty-four illustrations of apparatus used in the manufacture, or extraction of medical chemicals are found in the book. The scheme of treatment usually followed is English name, synonyms, chemical name, formula (usually graphic), molecular weight, method or methods of manufacture (often quite detailed), description of apparatus (at times of the entire plant with illustrations), quantities of raw materials needed, yield, purification

uses, properties, tests, numbers of patents pertaining to the manufacture or discovery, history and bibliographical references.

Seven pages are devoted to *ether*, six to *chloroform*, both with illustrations. Methods are given for the manufacture of the latter from alcohol, acetone, chloroform, and chloral, as well as the electrolytic method.

Under *veronal* thirty-seven patents, mostly German, relating to its manufacture are briefly described or mentioned.

Graphic formulas and equations representing chemical reactions are many and excellent. The latter may also be said of the index and the general book-work.

All in all, this book should prove a ready reference book and great timesaver for the pharmacist, chemist, teacher, student, lawyer and layman seeking information concerning the organic chemicals of the modern *materia medica*.

JEANNOT HOSTMANN.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Introduction to Qualitative Chemical Analysis*. By Th. Wilhelm Fresenius. 17th Ed. of the original work by G. Remigius Fresenius. Translated by C. Ainsworth Mitchell. 954 pp. Price, cloth, \$8.00. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

*Inorganic Chemistry for Schools and Colleges*. By Jas. Lewis Howe. 2nd edition, revised. 3d edition of "Inorganic Chemistry According to the Periodic Law." By F. P. Venable and J. L. Howe, 443 pp. Price, \$4.00. The Chemical Publishing Company, Easton, Pa.

*Organic Chemistry for the Laboratory*. By W. A. Noyes. 4th edition, revised. 293 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$3.50. The Chemical Publishing Company, Easton, Pa.